BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
March 29, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

March 29, 2017

BHP BILLITON LIMITED
(ABN 49 004 028 077)
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

171 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE,

VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA

BHP BILLITON PLC
(REG. NO. 3196209)
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

ENGLAND AND WALES
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, LONDON,

UNITED KINGDOM

(Address of principal executive offices) **(Address of principal executive offices)**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

BHP Billiton Limited
171 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
GPO BOX 86
Melbourne Victoria 3001 Australia
Tel +61 1300 55 47 57 Fax +61 3 9609 3015
bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Plc
Neathouse Place
London SW1V 1LH UK
Tel +44 20 7802 4000
Fax + 44 20 7802 4111
bhpbilliton.com

29 March 2017

To: Australian Securities Exchange
London Stock Exchange

cc: New York Stock Exchange
JSE Limited

GLOBAL IRON ORE AND STEEL FORECAST CONFERENCE

BHP Billiton Asset President, Western Australia Iron Ore, Edgar Basto, will present at the Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference, in Perth, Western Australia today.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at www.bhpbilliton.com.

Rachel Agnew
Company Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE

Date 29 March 2017

Release Number 12/17

OUR CULTURE TO DRIVE VALUE AND RETURNS AT WAIO

Speaking at the 20th Annual Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference, BHP Billiton Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) Asset President, Edgar Basto, said that while the growth of low-cost seaborne iron ore supply is expected to outpace incremental demand, the Company is well-positioned to continue to grow value and returns.

Our drive for increased performance focuses on operational discipline and the involvement of front line personnel, and is delivering ongoing improvements in our business, Mr Basto said.

WAIO achieved record production of 136 million tonnes (100 per cent basis) in the December 2016 half year. The completion of the rail renewal and maintenance program in the last quarter of the 2017 financial year, which is running six months ahead of schedule, coupled with the ramp-up of additional capacity at the Jimblebar mining hub and ongoing productivity improvements, are expected to deliver an increase in WAIO system capacity to 290 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) in the 2019 financial year.

BHP Billiton s new operating model is also supporting improved performance, with additional opportunities identified to improve rail cycle times, truck availability and fuel consumption, as well as to increase equipment reliability and extend equipment life, thereby lowering operating costs further.

Mr Basto also outlined the sustaining investment options currently being considered.

Our Yandi mine, located in the central Pilbara, is currently operating at 80 Mtpa but will be depleted over the next five to 10 years. We are looking at options to replace this production. South Flank is the preferred long-term solution, subject to Board approval being obtained. The investment case for using this high-grade deposit for replacement tonnes is strong, given BHP Billiton s ability to utilise existing infrastructure at the Mining Area C operation where possible, Mr Basto said.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: **bhpbilliton.com**

Media Relations

Australia and Asia

Paul Hitchins
Tel: +61 3 9609 2592 Mobile +61 419 315 001
Email: Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com

Fiona Hadley
Tel: +61 3 9609 2211 Mobile +61 427 777 908
Email: Fiona.Hadley@bhpbilliton.com

Amanda Saunders
Tel: +61 3 9609 3985 Mobile +61 417 487 973
Email: Amanda.Saunders@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and South Africa

Neil Burrows
Tel: +44 207 802 7484
Email: Neil.Burrows@bhpbilliton.com

North America

Bronwyn Wilkinson
Mobile: +1 604 340 8753
Email: Bronwyn.Wilkinson@bhpbilliton.com

Investor Relations

Australia and Asia

Tara Dines
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005
Email: Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com

Andrew Gunn
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354
Email: Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and South Africa

Rob Clifford
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7788 308 844
Email: Rob.Clifford@bhpbilliton.com

Elisa Morniroli
Tel: +44 20 7802 7611 Mobile: +44 7825 926 646
Email: Elisa.Morniroli@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

James Wear
Tel: +1 713 993 3737 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011
Email: James.Wear@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
LEI WZE1WSENV6JSZFK0JC28
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 18, 171 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015
Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

headquartered in Australia

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
LEI 549300C116EOWV835768
Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

Follow us on social media

2

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: March 29, 2017

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew
Name: Rachel Agnew
Title: Company Secretary